

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Are There Enough Doctors?—Common opinion, both lay and professional, says that there are enough and more than enough doctors to supply the medical needs of the country. Recent circumstances, however, throw considerable doubt on the accuracy of this conclusion. The difficulty of the Army and our allies in obtaining the doctors needed for the war was a surprise. Also were we surprised to find the dearth of physicians in many localities when the military need had been met. Hospitals, clinics and laboratories were confronted with a serious problem in the scarcity of doctors. Industrial concerns and public health agencies likewise reflected the lack. The difficulty in filling the military needs was followed by the drafting of senior medical students even, and then the experience of England and the startling shortage of doctors in civilian lines led to a careful conservation of the available supply of doctors and the exemption of medical students. Even under these extreme conditions, the statesmanlike attitude was preserved that only high class, well-trained doctors are wanted, and the multiplication of medical schools was discouraged and inferior schools were closed.

Dr. I. M. Rubinow in a recent issue of the *Medical Review of Reviews* undertakes to analyze the question of the supply of doctors in proportion to the demand for them. He estimates the total number of doctors in the United States at 150,000 roughly, as compared with 133,000 lawyers, 134,000 clergymen, 140,000 music teachers and 600,000 teachers of all sorts. It is unnecessary here to dispute over the relative importance of these various classes. Certainly, however, the average family has greater need for a doctor than a lawyer and certainly a doctor cannot expect to serve as large a clientele successfully as can a clergyman. An estimation of one doctor per 600 or 700 population means nothing because of diverse conditions in different sections. . . .

Editorial Comment.—Why do all the new medical graduates wish to locate in a city? Why is there a greater shortage of doctors in small towns and the country than in the cities?

EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

From an Article on "The Need for a State Hospital School for Indigent Crippled and Deformed Children," by Harry Leslie Langnecker, M.D., San Francisco.—Most physicians and many laymen, realize the necessity for better treatment and care of indigent crippled and deformed children. Those members of the medical profession who are intimately interested in the treatment of these correctable defects, understand better than anyone else, the lost opportunities in the neglected and untreated cases. Not until last year, has any definite means

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

Historical reminiscences, papers and other archives will be welcomed by the C.M.A. Committee on History, to whom such should be sent. Address same to the Committee's Secretary, Dr. George H. Kress, Room 2004, 450 Sutter, San Francisco 8.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By F. N. SCATENA, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

Results of the San Francisco written examination conducted by the Board of Medical Examiners have been released. The records show that 142 Physicians and Surgeons, five Chiropodists and two Drugless Practitioners passed said examination.

At the recent written examination in Los Angeles, 126 applicants presented themselves for written examination.

Legal hearings were held on charges of infractions of various sections of the Business and Professions Code. The results of such hearings at the August meeting were as follows:

Anderson, Pearl J., M.D. License restored to good standing, 8/22/44.

Traxler, Paul S., M.D. License restored to good standing, 8/21/44.

Aronchik, Bernard, M.D. License revoked, 8/24/44.

Esker, George C., Jr., M.D., placed on probation for 5 years, from 8/23/44.

Froyd, Melvin Frankford, M.D., placed on probation for 5 years, from 8/22/44.

Gregg, Wendell Oliver, M.D., probationary period extended for 3 years, from 2/27/45.

News

"The State District Court has upheld a Superior Court verdict ordering restoration by the State Board of Medical Examiners of the license of Dr. Thomas D. Wyatt, Redding physician. Dr. Wyatt's license was revoked by the Board when it charged him with performing two illegal operations at a Redding hospital in March, 1942. The women involved testified in Superior Court that the operations were legal." (*Anderson News*, August 10, 1944.)

"Superior Judge Dal M. Lemmon today denied a defense motion for a new trial and sentenced Dr. M. A. Thompson, 45, North Sacramento chiropactor, to serve from two to five years in San Quentin Prison on abortion charges. Dr. Thompson was convicted by a jury a week ago on two counts of abortion involving a 17-year-old Sacramento girl. Each count of abortion is punishable by two-to-five-year terms, but the court directed in this case the two sentences shall run concurrently. Immediately following the passing of sentence, R. C. Fleming, defense attorney, filed a written notice of appeal to the District Court of Appeal . . ." (*Sacramento Bee*, August 28, 1944.)

"Mrs. Mattie Perket, 45, of Farmersville, is in the Tulare County Jail here today following her arrest by Joseph Williams, investigator for the State Board of Medical Examiners, on a charge of violating the State Medical Practice Act by attending scores of mothers in childbirth in the Farmersville and Exeter districts during the last two years without having a license. Mrs. Perket was employed as a cannery worker in Visalia,

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.